

Lambda Letters Project

Vol. 14, No. 6 June, 2006

www.lambdaletters.org

LambdaLP@aol.com

(916) 728-1261

We Dodged the Bullet, for Now

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

It appears that we have dodged the bullet. It seems *very unlikely* that an initiative to ban same-sex marriage will be on either the primary election ballot in June or the general election ballot in November.

Things looked very grim at the beginning of the year. The opponents of same-sex marriage were gathering signatures on no less than 12 initiatives to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage in California.

Many of these initiatives would also have taken away the rights of registered domestic partners that we have worked so hard to win in the last few years.

In order for any one of the initiatives to qualify for the ballot, its supporters would have to gather 598,105 valid signatures on the petition for the initiative. That may seem like a lot, but at the beginning of this year, most LGBTI advocates assumed it was highly likely that at least one of the initiatives would get on the ballot.

When supporters of an initiative ask permission of the secretary of state to gather signatures to get an initiative on the ballot, however, they are given a deadline by which they must gather and submit the necessary number of valid signatures. If they fail to get

Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

36111

the necessary number of signatures by that date, their initiative dies, and does not get on the ballot.

One after another, the initiatives have been failing because their supporters did not submit the signatures by the deadline.

It appears that the initiative supporters didn't make a serious attempt to gather the needed signatures.

Frankly this is a bit mysterious. Same-sex couples almost got the right to marry in California last year. Assemblymember Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) says he plans to introduce a new same-sex marriage bill in the state legislature next year.

It does seem that would have been enough to motivate the homophobes to get an initiative on the ballot—not that I am complaining about their failure.

So where do we go from here? As I said, Leno will probably introduce a new same-sex marriage law next year.


In the meantime, a court case on the issue is making its way through the California courts.

In 2004 the city of San Francisco and 12 same-sex couples sued the state, claiming the denial of marriage licenses to same-sex couples violates the state constitution.

In April 2005, San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer agreed with them, ruling the ban unconstitutional. His decision was appealed to the State Court of Appeal in San Francisco. That court accepted written briefs on the subject until February 9, 2006. Oral hearings are expected to occur soon.

The appeals court will issue its ruling sometime after that. All parties assume that the appeals court's decision will be appealed to the State Supreme Court, no matter who wins. The final decision in this case could take at least a few more years.

With luck, the California legislature and governor will settle the issue next year by enacting legislation to permit same-sex marriage in California. Sadly, however, that law may be challenged in the courts as well. Victory ultimately goes to those who never give up.

You can see the records of the initiatives on the secretary of state's website at www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_j.htm. 

In This Newsletter

Economic Issue	3
HIV/AIDS Issue	3-4
People of Color Issue	3
LGBTI Issue	4
Women's Issue	4
June Legislative Update	5-10
Polls See Increased Backing for Gays	11
Celebrating Juneteenth	11

Lambda Letters Progress Report

Letters Collected

April, 2006	18,476 letters
In all of 2006	49,795 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

April, 2006	\$3,437
In all of 2006	\$17,083

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Our Mission

To promote the social, economic, and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex individuals, couples, and families; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; women; and people of low economic status. We urge elected officials to enact and support legislation that accomplishes this goal.

Board of Directors

Chair: Pat Washington, San Diego,
pat.washington@lambdaletters.org
Vice-Chair: Ellis Vance, Fresno,
ellis.vance@lambdaletters.org
Treasurer: Ellis Vance, Fresno,
ellis.vance@lambdaletters.org
Secretary: Anne Daniels, Sacramento,
anne.daniels@lambdaletters.org
Shirin Buckman, Hollywood,
shirin.buckman@lambdaletters.org
Alex Eng, Sacramento, alex.eng@lambdaletters.org
Joy Fisher, Sacramento,
joy.fisher@lambdaletters.org
Sara E. Freid, Sacramento,
sara.freid@lambdaletters.org
Debi Henry, Sacramento,
debi.henry@lambdaletters.org
Stacy L. Saetta, San Francisco,
stacy.saetta@lambdaletters.org

Staff

Chief Lobbyist, E-mail Alert Advocate:
Boyce Hinman, (916) 728-1261,
boyce.hinman@lambdaletters.org
Newsletter/Website Editor: Stefan Gruenwedel,
stefan@stefanmedia.com
Legislative Analysts:
♦ LGBTI Issues: Shirin Buckman,
shirin.buckman@lambdaletters.org
♦ HIV/AIDS Issues: Boyce Hinman,
boyce.hinman@lambdaletters.org
♦ People of Color Issues: Marty Martinez,
marty.martinez@lambdaletters.org
♦ Women's Issues: Joy Fisher,
joy.fisher@lambdaletters.org
♦ Economic Issues: Shirin Buckman,

shirin.buckman@lambdaletters.org
General Coordinator: Aaire Stickney,
aaire.stickney@lambdaletters.org
Volunteer Coordinator: Pat Washington,
pat.washington@lambdaletters.org
Foundation Volunteers:
Joy Fisher, joy.fisher@lambdaletters.org;
Robert Harrison,
robert.harrison@lambdaletters.org;
Rusty Nichols rusty.nichols@lambdaletters.org

Publication of the name of any person or organization in articles or advertising in the Lambda Letters Project newsletter is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. The Lambda Letters Project does not sell or loan its mailing list to anyone. We give no information about who is, or is not, a member of the Project. We do, occasionally, send mailings on behalf of other worthwhile organizations, but this is done by our own volunteers so that no other organization has the opportunity to copy our mailing lists.

The Lambda Letters Newsletter is published monthly, except in December, by
Lambda Letters Project Inc., 6529 Cowboy Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95621.

Send address changes to
Lambda Letters Project, 3726 Madison Avenue #1,
San Diego, CA 92116
or e-mail aaire.stickney@lambdaletters.org.



Discrimination Complaints

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave? If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684.
In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212.
The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

Sponsors of Lambda Letters Project

Visionary (\$5,000 or more)

Boyce Hinman & Larry Beaty;
Crystal Weber of Studio C; Mark Whisler

Partner (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Anne Daniels

Activist (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Elaine Hoffman; Ray Leber;
Jerome L. Murphy, MD & Andrew Tran;
Peter S. Tannen & David Cameron;
Patricia A. Washington

Advocate (\$500-\$999)

Mugurdich Balabanian, MD & Françoise Balabanian, PhD; Robin L. Greiner, Jr & Ellis Vance;
Gordon L. Larsen, MD;
Dennis H. Mangers & Michael Sestak;
M.F. Preston; Julia M. & Samuel Thoron

Sponsor (\$200-\$499)

Lucien L. Agosta, PhD; Hal Brown;
Robert & Rosalee Clarke; Carolyn E. & Dean O. Cliver;
Charles S. & Janet Dugan; Stefan Gruenwedel;
J. Michael Lee, MD & Ken Rainey; Barry Lynch;
Jeffery E. Myers; Joan Potter;
Kenneth Prag & Stephen Collins;
Donald Ricart & Albert Bousquet;
Scott E. Roy & Scott Kitrell; Patti Michelle Sheaffer;
Gary Slate & Danny Tsao; Melodie A. Whitley

Supporter (\$100-\$199)

Russell R. Alameda, Jr. & Dennis Nyitray;
Cindy Lou Baudoin & Nancy McKernan; John Boren;
Clark Burnett; E.L. Charlton;
Robert B. Clarke, Jr.; Pat Coffey & Sandy Gaudur;
Dennis Allan Dudley & Gary Nelson; Paul G. Felice;
Joy Fisher; Elwood Gerrits;
Lorraine Heidecker & Kay Buie;
Yoshinori H.T. Himel; Susan Davis Hopkins;
Ronald R. Hull; Richard E. Jennings;
Jesse Joad & Ann Bonham;
Allan Carter Ju; Arthur L. Katz;
Edward Charles Lenhart; Ruthie Loeffelbein;
Peter Mailler & Joe Margucci; Darby Malone;
Catherine A. Marcotte & Therese Cleary;
John H. Martinez; Cindi Matsumoto; N.C. McClelland;
The Rev. John F. Millen; Rusty Nichols; Lori Norman;
K. Layne Rainey; Meda Rebecca & Kathleen Carson;
Mary E. Rohwer; Walter Blayne Silva-Davis;
Roger Slaboch; Steven M. Solomon; Jerald M. Stinson;
Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance, Inc.;
Whitney Weddell & Eliot Wegener;
C.L. Woodall

Support Equitable Overtime Pay

By Shirin Buckman, Legislative Analyst


Please write to the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee and ask them to support AB 2536, the Minimum Wage and Overtime Compensation Act. This bill seeks to protect personal attendants and certain other household workers by requiring employers to pay them overtime.

Currently, an employee who works over eight hours a day, 40 hours a week, is entitled to one and a half times their regular pay. If an employee is not paid accordingly, they are entitled to a legal remedy from the employer. However, current law does not apply to in-home personal attendants or certain other household workers. "Personal attendants and household workers" include nannies, housekeepers, in-home health care providers who take care of mentally and physically incapacitated patients, and senior care workers.

If passed, AB 2536 will enable personal attendants and other household workers to receive time-and-a-half pay after working an eight-hour day and double-time pay for an excess of 12 hours in a day. If the overtime pay provisions are violated, the covered employees would be entitled by law to the same compensatory remedies as any other wage earner.

In addition, AB 2536 costs the state no money! In fact, overtime pay is taxed, so any costs due to litigating against employers who violate the overtime compensation rule are offset by the higher income taxes that are collected on the pay of employees who are getting the overtime pay.

In many households, these employees are an integral part of the household operation. They work tirelessly, sometimes 12–18 hours a day, making sure that the members of the household are clothed, fed, and bathed. Therefore, it is crucial that they are paid according to the hard, sometimes life-sustaining work that they do daily.

Please ask the members of the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee to approve AB 2536. Personal attendants and other household workers deserve the same overtime pay protections as all other wage earners. 

Support Flexible Funding for NEPs

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

This month we ask that you write to the Senate Health Committee in support of AB 2076, which would codify current state policy allowing state general funds for HIV prevention to support locally authorized needle-exchange programs (NEPs). It would also allow these programs to use state funds to purchase sterile needles and syringes, which the state does not currently permit.

The bill also specifies that local health officers must include information about the use of public funds for needle-exchange programs in their annual reports to the local governing jurisdiction that authorized them.

Current State Department of Health Services (DHS) policy allows state HIV prevention and education funds to be used for costs associated with authorized NEPs, except for the purchase of sterile hypodermic needles and syringes. The available sources of funding for the purchase of sterile needles and syringes have been decreasing.

According to the state Office of AIDS, injection drug use continues to be one of the most prevalent risk factors for new HIV/AIDS cases in California. An October 2005 report issued by the Office of AIDS within the DHS reveals that sharing contaminated syringes and other injection equipment is linked to 20% of all reported AIDS cases in the state. The same report states that over 1,500 new syringe-sharing HIV infections occur annually. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that it costs \$195,188 to provide lifetime care to a person infected with HIV.

The state legislature has responded to the spread of HIV among injection drug users by adopting AB 136 (Chapter 762, Statutes of 1999), permitting localities to determine whether or not to operate clean needle and syringe exchange programs, many of which have decided to do so. These programs have been shown to reduce significantly the transmission of HIV and other blood-borne infections among injection drug users, their sexual partners and children. Moreover, these programs have been effective in moving individuals into drug treatment programs and in reducing the number of used needles disposed in public places, which pose a threat


Support Interpreters in Health Care Settings

By Marty Martinez, Legislative Analyst

Four out of six Californians speak a language other than English at home. A survey of health care providers found that 94% cite communication as a top priority in delivering quality care. The difficulties of many patients in understanding English can often interfere with them getting the care they need.

It is possible for states to draw down federal Medicaid dollars to pay for interpreters and to help patients with little English communicate with their health care providers. However, even though 11 states take advantage of these federal dollars, our state—perhaps the most diverse in the country—has not. California should establish a state reimbursement mechanism to seek federal funds.

SB 1405 creates a Task Force on Reimbursement for Language Access Services to examine the issue of establishing a system of language access services for California's health care system. Consisting of various consumer groups, advocacy organizations, and health care providers, including community clinics and hospitals, as well as state officials, the task force will be responsible for developing and recommending a language access model no later than July 1, 2009.

The bill will be before the Assembly Health Committee in the coming weeks. Please write to the committee in support of this important legislation. 

to public health and safety.

The US government prohibits the use of federal funds to support the purchase of sterile hypodermic needles and syringes by clean needle and syringe exchange programs. To date the state has not permitted the use of its funds for the purchase of sterile hypodermic needles and syringes. The ability of clean needle and syringe exchange programs to purchase an adequate supply of

Continued on page 4

Support Bias-Free Education

By Shirin Buckman, Legislative Analyst

Please write the Assembly Education Committee and urge them to support SB 1437, the Bias-Free Curriculum Act. This bill does two things.

First, it prohibits any school district from using textbooks or other educational materials, or allowing school-sponsored activities, that are discriminatory against anyone based on their race or ethnicity, gender, disability, nationality, sexual orientation, or religion.

Second, it reinforces the California Education Code's mandate that students in California's public schools study the contribution of different races, ethnicities, genders, occupations, and sexual orientations to the development of American society.

Currently, the State Board of Education is barred from using any instructional material or sponsoring any events that are discriminatory against anyone based on their race, sex, color, creed, handicap, national origin, ancestry, or occupation. SB 1437 adds a wider base of protection from discrimination by including ethnicity, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, and religion.

SB 1437 is significant for the LGBTI community because textbooks, instructional materials, and school-sponsored events must use gender-neutral language. For example, by publishing the words "spouses" or "partners," as opposed to the words "a husband and a wife," LGBTI students are protected against bias in their educational experience.

The bill would also prohibit negative stereotyping of groups including the LGBTI community. "By protecting LGBTI youth from negative stereotyping in their own, required, educational materials, SB 1437 would promote a safe and respectful environment in California schools," said Equality California, the bill's sponsor.

The second part of SB 1437 requires that, in addition to the history of other rich cultures and lifestyles that make up the fabric of America, the contributions of the LGBTI community should be included in educational materials used by the schools. This necessary inclusion will help ensure that students get the full picture of the diverse people and events that have shaped our society. It will also foster

Demand Pay Equity for Women

By Joy Fisher, Legislative Analyst


Way back in 1949 California enacted an equal-pay law that prohibited employers from paying less to women than to men for work requiring equal skill, effort, and responsibility and that was performed under similar working conditions. Notwithstanding that law, gender-based pay discrimination continues to persist in California and the nation. Ask any woman; she can tell you. However, government statistics tell the same story.

For example, the US Census Bureau reported in 2002 that American women working full-time, year-round earned on average 76.6 cents for every dollar earned by full-time working American men. Additionally, the US General Accounting Office recently found that there is a gender-based wage gap of approximately 20%, even after taking into account work experience, education, occupation, industry of current employment, and other demographic and job characteristics.

Assemblymember Jenny Oropeza (D-Carson) thinks it's time for this lingering exploitation of women to come to an end. She has introduced AB 2555, which seeks to end gender-based pay inequity. It would establish a nine-member Equal Pay Commission to study pay disparities for a year and then report their findings to the legislature. It would also increase damages for which an employer may be liable for violating the law by including a civil penalty of twice the amount of wages due the aggrieved employee, or four times the balance of wages due if the employer's violation is willful.

a safer, supportive, and respectful learning environment which is critical to all students' academic achievement and success.


This bill is important because when all students learn about the struggles and backgrounds of all the different strata in the society in which they live, they become more accepting of people who are different from themselves. This, in turn, keeps LGBTI students from being harassed and makes them feel safer in their schools.

Please write the Assembly Education Committee and ask them to support this very important bill. 

Penalties recovered will be distributed to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency for the enforcement of pay equity laws and the education of employees and employers about their rights and responsibilities under pay equity laws.

Assemblymember Oropeza is nothing if not persistent. This is the third time she has introduced legislation to strengthen the equal-pay law found in Labor Code section 1197.5. Governor Schwarzenegger has vetoed two similar bills, AB 169 in 2005 and AB 2317 in 2004. Although the bills have had a long list of supporters, opposing employer groups such as the California Chamber of Commerce and the California Manufacturers and Technology Association have managed to convince the governor that strengthening the equal-pay law will only lead to an increase in "frivolous" litigation!

The bill is currently pending in the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee. Please write to them and urge them to pass this bill—then be prepared to write to the governor and urge him to let the will of the people be heard. Given the governor's past actions, this is going to be a tough bill to persuade him to sign.


Please support Assemblymember Oropeza in her efforts on behalf of working women. 

HIV/AIDS Issue

Continued from page 3

sterile hypodermic needles and syringes is essential to California's ability to reduce the transmission of HIV and other blood-borne diseases further and to relieve the public cost for the care and treatment of HIV disease and other diseases.

AB 2076 would substantially aid local efforts to reduce the rate of HIV transmission through injection drug use in California by authorizing the use of state funds for the purchase of clean hypodermic needles and syringes. Any funds that would be expended for clean needles and syringes would come from existing appropriations for state HIV prevention funds. Accordingly, this bill does not increase funding and will, in effect, make counties prioritize how they expend prevention funds. One of these choices may be to purchase needles and syringes, which could result in significant savings for state-funded health programs.

Please write to the Senate Health Committee in support of this important legislation. 

June Legislative Update

Each bill introduced in the state legislature must be reviewed by a policy committee in each house before the full Assembly and Senate can vote on them. The Assembly Health Committee is one example of a policy committee. The job of the policy committee is to decide if the bill makes sense from a policy standpoint.

Any bill expected to cost the state or local governments any money must also be voted on by the Appropriations Committee of each house before the full house can vote on it. These are called "fiscal" bills. Generally the Appropriations Committee puts all bills in their suspense file that cost the state or local governments \$150,000 or more in any fiscal year. All the suspense-file bills are voted on by the committee just before the deadline for getting them out of the Appropriations Committee.

There are also deadlines for getting bills through the committees. All fiscal bills must be approved by the Policy Committee of the house in which they were introduced by no later than April 28. Non-fiscal bills must be approved by the Policy Committee of the house in which they were introduced by no later than May 12. Then all bills referred to the Appropriations Committee must be approved by that committee, in the bill's house of origin, no later than May 26.

Finally all bills must be approved by their full house of origin no later than June 2.

The purpose of these deadlines is to ensure that bills move forward in time to be passed before the legislature closes for the year. Any bill missing these deadlines dies. No further action is permitted on the bill unless its author gets a waiver of the rules.

There are exceptions to the above rules. Concurrent Resolutions (ACRs and SCRs) and Joint Resolutions (AJRs and SJRs) are not subject to those limits.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 1677 (Paul Koretz, D-West Hollywood)
Purpose: To allow nonprofit agencies to distribute condoms in state prisons.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2044 (Dave Cogdill, R-Modesto)
Purpose: To allow courts to order HIV testing of a student when it is considered likely that a

significant amount of blood, saliva, semen or other bodily fluid was transferred between a student and a school employee.

Status: Died in the Assembly Public Safety Committee. **LLP Position:** Watch.

AB 2076 (John Laird, D-Santa Cruz)
Purpose: To allow local governments to use HIV prevention and education general funds received from the state to pay for supplies for needle-exchange programs.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee. In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2203 (Bonnie Garcia, R-El Centro)
Purpose: To require that a woman be provided an information sheet on HIV and AIDS any time she seeks a gynecological exam or family planning appointment.

Status: Failed in the Assembly Health Committee. Reconsideration granted. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2280 (Mark Leno, D-San Francisco)
Purpose: To require the state to develop a counseling model for all people who receive HIV testing at any publicly funded clinic.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2383 (Mervyn Dymally, D-Compton)
Purpose: To require HIV testing of any inmates entering a prison or hospital by court order for a period of a year or more. Would require testing 60 to 120 days prior to release.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on May 24. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1341 (Gilbert Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)
Purpose: To change the deadline currently in place on a law which allows thrift stores selling goods to support programs for people with HIV/AIDS to not charge a sales tax on the goods sold. These thrift stores would be allowed to sell items without charging sales tax until January 1, 2012.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1471 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)
Purpose: To stipulate that sex education classes in public schools should be complete, accurate, age-appropriate, and should not express bias on any of several bases including sexual orientation.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support

SJR 22 (Jackie Speier, D-San Mateo)
Purpose: To ask Congress to approve federal legislation meant to speed the development of a microbicide to prevent the transmission of HIV and other diseases.
Status: In the Assembly Health Committee for a hearing on June 13. **LLP Position:** Support.

Economic Issues

AB 75 (Dario Frommer, D-Glendale)
Purpose: To establish the California Rx Plus State Pharmacy Assistance Program. Any licensed pharmacy or drug manufacturer could enter the program. The state would negotiate drug discounts with them on behalf of people on a limited income.
Status: In the Senate Health Committee. Hearing cancelled by author. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1778 (Sally Lieber, D-San Jose)
Purpose: To allow parents to prohibit schools from releasing information about the parent's children to US military recruiters.
Status: In the Assembly awaiting a final vote in that house. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1780 (Joe Baca, D-San Bernardino)
Purpose: To reduce Community College fees to \$18 per unit per semester.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1786 (Rudy Bermudez, D-Norwalk)
Purpose: To require the Superintendent of Education to look for ways of providing extra funds to schools for student busing programs divided among school districts on an equitable basis.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Education Committee. In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1835 (Sally Lieber, D-San Jose)
Purpose: To increase the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour, effective July 1, 2007, and to \$7.75 per hour, effective July 1, 2008. Minimum wage would be adjusted automatically every January 1 after that, based on inflation.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1844 (Ed Chavez, D-City of Industry)
Purpose: To increase the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour, effective July 1, 2007, and to \$7.75 per hour, effective July 1, 2008. Minimum wage would be adjusted automatically every January 1 after that, based on inflation.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1851 (Joe Coto, D-San Jose)
Purpose: To delete a deadline in current law that allows participating health, dental, or vision plans to assist people in signing up for the Healthy Families Program. The plans would be allowed to continue doing this.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee. In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1971 (Wilma Chan, D-Oakland)
Purpose: Currently health insurance companies and health care plans are required to provide

Continued on page 6

Legislative Update

Continued from page 5

limited coverage, and less expensive, health coverage plans. This is a pilot program to end September 1, 2007. This bill extends the program to 2008. The bill would also require the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board to make recommendations to the legislature about establishing a high-risk pool for uninsurable persons.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1981 (Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To establish a program of grants to be made available to community-based organizations together with local law enforcement. The grants would fund programs to provide re-entry services to inmates of local jails and hopefully reduce their rate of rearrest.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1983 (Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To allow foster children on Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) to continue getting AFDC until age 25 at the latest and as long as he or she remains in foster care and continues in full-time education for a high school diploma, a high school equivalency certificate, or the equivalent level of vocational or educational training.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on May 24. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2004 (Betty Karnette, D-Long Beach)

Purpose: To suspend Medi-Cal benefits for a juvenile who is sentenced to jail but require the Department of Correction to assure that those benefits are re-established as soon as the youth is released from jail.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on May 24. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2040 (Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park)

Purpose: To require the state to provide summer and Saturday dates for taking the high school exit exam.

Status: Passed the Assembly. Assigned to the Senate Education Committee for a vote on June 7. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2046 (Joe Coto, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To require some public schools providing kindergarten to offer full-day sessions. By 2010 all schools offering kindergarten would have to offer full-day sessions.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2052 (Ray Haynes, R-Temecula)

Purpose: To require the state to make grants to small businesses to encourage their development. **Status:** Died in the Assembly Jobs and Economic Development Committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2192 (Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To allow certain drug offenders to qualify for CalWORKs benefits under certain conditions.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2266 (Sally Lieber, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To put a temporary moratorium on the death penalty while it is studied.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2334 (Ed Chavez, D-City of Industry)

Purpose: To require janitorial services to register annually with the state and to meet regulations set by the state including certain insurance and licensing requirements.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2339 (Mark Ridley-Thomas, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To establish the Colorectal Cancer Treatment Program to provide outreach, education, prevention, and treatment of colorectal cancer in low-income men.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2450 (Keith Richman, R-Granada Hills)

Purpose: To establish a single point of entry, but not an exclusive method of enrollment, for enrollment in all health care programs operated by state or local government.

Status: Died in the Assembly Health Committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2466 (Lynn Daucher, R-Brea)

Purpose: To allow assets in a 401(k), IRA, or 529 college savings program to be excluded when determining whether a person is poor enough to qualify for CalWORKs.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2469 (Noreen Evans, D-Santa Rosa)

Purpose: To require the state to pay counties with 250,000 or fewer residents an amount annually equal to that previously paid by the county for in-home supportive and personal care services provided to people who are qualified aged, disabled, or blind persons on low incomes.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on May 24. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2481 (Noreen Evans, D-Santa Rosa)

Purpose: To increase by 5% the rates paid to adults who provide foster care to children who have been removed from their families homes. It would also provide for an annual increase, for the next four years, in the payment for those and related services.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2487 (Dave Cogdill, R-Modesto)

Purpose: To request the University of California

and the California State University to reimburse part of the Community College fees of students who went through community colleges and later graduated from either the University of California or California State University.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2489 (Mark Leno, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To allow any county office of education, or consortium of school districts, together with a county office of education, to apply for state grants to pay for operating educational services to foster children.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on May 24. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2495 (Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: This state, under the CalWORKs program, through the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) program, provides aid on behalf of eligible children who are placed in the home of a relative caretaker. This bill augments payments under the Kin-GAP program by amounts equal to the amount of specialized care increment or clothing allowance the child would be eligible for under the AFDC program.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2536 (Cindy Montanez, D-Mission Hills)

Purpose: To apply state laws on eight-hour workdays and 40-hour work weeks, and on overtime pay for additional hours worked, to work done by personal attendants and live-in (non-live-in) household employees.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Sent to the Assembly floor for a final vote in that house. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2576 (Hector De La Torre, D-South Gate)

Purpose: To require the Public Utilities Commission to grant lower utility rates to people whose income is at or under 250% of the federal poverty level. Requires utilities to use a single application form to enable an applicant to apply alternatively for any assistance program for which the applicant may be eligible. Also requires utilities to assure that those using the least power get the greatest discounts.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on May 24. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2877 (Dario Frommer, D-Glendale)

Purpose: To require the state to achieve cost savings in its public health programs by using more generic drugs.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AJR 40 (Wilma Chan, D-Oakland)

Purpose: To ask Congress to pass the Medicare Informed Choice Act, HR 3861.

Status: Approved by the Senate Health Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 778 (Dean Florz, D-Bakersfield)
Purpose: To prohibit banks from charging a fee for cashing a paycheck when the bank issued the check on behalf of an employer.
Status: Passed the Assembly. In the Assembly Banking and Finance Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 840 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)
Purpose: To provide health insurance for every resident of California.
Status: Passed the Senate. In the Assembly Rules Committee awaiting assignment to a committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1118 (Liz Figueroa, D-Fremont)
Purpose: To provide affordable health care for all children in California.
Status: Died in Senate Revenue and Tax Committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1124 (Tom Torlakson, D-Concord)
Purpose: To allow certain retired teachers to be rehired as mentors in high-priority schools without losing any pension income.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1162 (Gilbert Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)
Purpose: To increase the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour, effective 60 days after passage of the bill and to \$7.75 per hour, effective July 1, 2007. Minimum wage would be adjusted automatically at intervals to be determined.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1164 (George Runner, R-Lancaster)
Purpose: To provide for a bond initiative to be approved by the voters and to provide funds for the upgrading or building of new schools.
Status: In the Senate Education Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1188 (Dean Florez, D-Bakersfield)
Purpose: To prohibit employers from writing paychecks on a bank that would charge a fee for cashing the checks unless the employer reimburses the fee.
Status: Passed the Senate. Awaiting assignment to a committee in the Assembly.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1288 (Gilbert Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require Medi-Cal to cover residential and outpatient drug and alcohol abuse treatment programs for minors age 12 or older.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1289 (Gilbert Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)
Purpose: To allow a child in foster care, and on AFDC, to continue to get public assistance from age 18-21 if he or she is still in school or is working.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1323 (Gilbert Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)
Purpose: To fund a pilot program in Los Angeles for providing mental health services to ex-felons with mental health and substance abuse problems.
Status: Assigned to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a vote on May 22.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1335 (Nell Soto, D-Ontario)
Purpose: To allow the revocation of the license of a foster care home if it does not obtain required medical and dental care for its foster children.
Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1383 (Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento)
Purpose: To declare that a student who fails the high school exit exam, but who has completed all the coursework required to graduate from high school, qualifies for a high school equivalency certificate.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1534 (Richard Alarcon, D-Van Nuys)
Purpose: To require several state agencies to work together to create a single low-income program application to cover all services provided to low-income people to assure that they receive all the help for which they qualify.
Status: Approved by the Senate. Awaiting assignment to an Assembly committee.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1784 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)
Purpose: To increase taxes on the most wealthy and use the income generated by the increased tax to partially fund single-payer health insurance for all the residents of California.
Status: In the Senate Revenue and Tax Committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

LGBTI Issues

AB 606 (Lloyd Levine, D-Van Nuys)
Purpose: To require school districts to establish and publicize an anti-discrimination policy that prohibits discrimination and harassment based on gender identity and sexual orientation, among other things.
Status: In the Senate Education Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1056 (Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park)
Purpose: To require the State Board of Education to integrate instruction on tolerance into existing English language, and social science curriculum. Would establish these requirements as a pilot program in 10 schools.
Status: In the Senate Education Committee for a vote on June 29. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1160 (Sally Lieber, D-San Jose)
Purpose: To establish court rules that reduce the chance of defendants using panic strategies as a way of evading conviction, or to reduce their sentence in trials for hate crimes based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
Status: In the Senate Public Safety Committee for a vote on June 20. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1207 (Leland Yee, D-San Francisco)
Purpose: To add to the pledge contained in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices that the candidate shall not use gay-bashing or transgender-bashing in their political campaigns.
Status: In the Senate Elections Committee. Hearing postponed by committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1897 (Mervyn Dymally, D-Compton)
Purpose: To allow the State Personnel Board to order the state to pay a complainant's reasonable attorney's fees when the state engaged in illegal employment discrimination.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2051 (Rebecca Cohn, D-Campbell)
Purpose: To establish a \$23 fee for those registering as domestic partners. The money would go to fund domestic abuse training materials for use by programs that serve victims of same-sex and transgender domestic abuse.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on May 24. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2130 (Chuck DeVore, R-Irvine)
Purpose: To require the state to consider the religious and moral concerns of the parents of a child who has been made a ward of the court when deciding which foster parents to place the child with.
Status: Failed in the Assembly Human Services Committee. Reconsideration granted.
LLP Position: Oppose. The is clearly aimed at allowing parents to veto placements with same-sex couples or with foster parents who would be supportive of an LGBTI child.

AB 2311 (Dennis Mountjoy, R-Monrovia)
Purpose: To prohibit the promotion of homosexuality in public education.
Status: Failed in the Assembly Education Committee. **LLP Position:** Oppose.

AB 2386 (Jenny Oropeza, D-Carson)
Purpose: To require the secretary of state to post on his website a list of candidates for public office who have signed a voluntary pledge to abide by a Code of Fair Campaign Practices during an election campaign. Would also require that the pledge be printed in ballot pamphlets and that the pamphlets mention that a list of candidates who took the pledge can be found on the secretary of state's website.

Continued on page 8

Legislative Update

Continued from page 7

Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2472 (Mark Wyland, R-Vista)

Purpose: To allow veterans and members of the military reserves, and their immediate family members (but not domestic partners) to qualify for in-state tuition rates for the California State University or Community College system.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on May 24.

LLP Position: Support if amended to add domestic partners.

AB 2550 (Sam Blakeslee, R-San Luis Obispo)

Purpose: To require that any qualified member of the California National Guard or a widow, widower, or spouse of a qualified member (but not a domestic partner) be awarded additional preference points for any civil service employment.

Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor,

LLP Position: Support if amended to add domestic partners.

AB 2800 (John Laird, D-Santa Cruz)

Purpose: To ban sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination, among others, in housing and housing-related areas.

Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2920 (Mark Leno, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To force require the state to require that each area agency on aging include the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender seniors in their needs assessment and area plans, and require the state to provide technical assistance to the area agencies on aging for the training of all program staff, contractors, and volunteers regarding the unique needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender seniors.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on May 24.

LLP Position: Still to be determined by the LLP Legislative Committee.

ACR 56 (Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park)

Purpose: To designate June 2006 as Hate Crimes Awareness Month.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Awaiting assignment to a Senate committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1263 (Elaine Alquist, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To allow people to take state tax deductions on part of the premiums for long-term care insurance for themselves and their spouses or domestic partners, among others.

Status: Dropped by the author.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1437 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To prohibit instruction or school-sponsored activities that reflect adversely upon persons because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Status: Passed the Senate. Awaiting assignment to an Assembly committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1441 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To ban sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination in programs operated or funded by the state.

Status: Passed the Senate. Awaiting assignment to an Assembly committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1497 (Bob Dutton, R-Rancho Cucamonga)

Purpose: To waive community college fees for members of a family where one of them is in the armed services in a war zone. Family members is defined to include spouses but not domestic partners.

Status: Failed in the Senate Education Committee.

LLP Position: Support if amended to include domestic partners.

SB 1827 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To allow registered domestic partners to file joint or separate California Income Tax forms.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

People of Color Issues

AB 432 (Jenny Oropeza, D-Carson)

Purpose: To authorize a new citizen to register and vote at a location designated by the county until 8 pm on Election Day.

Status: Failed in the Senate Elections Committee. Reconsideration granted. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 680 (Wilma Chan, D-Oakland)

Purpose: To require the state Board of Education to monitor school districts to make sure that, when 15% or more of the pupils enrolled in a public school speak a single primary language other than English, all notices, reports, statements, or records sent to the parent or guardian of the pupil by the school are written in that language and may be responded to either in that language or English.

Status: Assembly concurrence pending on amendments made in the Senate. In the Assembly inactive file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 775 (Leland Yee, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To prohibit any state or local governmental agency, or any entity that receives state funding, from using any child, or permitting any child to be used, as an interpreter in any hospital, clinic, or physician office in the context of diagnosis or treatment, except as specified.

Status: Failed in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Reconsideration granted. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1076 (Jerome Horton, D-Inglewood)

Purpose: To require that public schools teach children about World War II and the role of Filipinos in that war.

Status: In the Senate Education Committee for a vote on June 28.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1988 (Joe Coto, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Education and other agencies to develop criteria to identify effective California educators and programs to train other educators in providing effective English learner instruction, and to develop databases of these educators and programs.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2060 (Hector De La Torre, D-South Gate)

Purpose: To require the Department of Community Services and Development to contract with, and allocate funds to, organizations to provide free naturalization services to would-be citizens.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2086 (Mervyn Dymally, D-Compton)

Purpose: To require the Chancellor of California's Community Colleges to encourage community college districts in northern California to expand services to indigenous peoples through collaborative programs with private, open-access, nonprofit tribal colleges in the region. Would encourage community college districts to negotiate and implement articulation agreements with tribal colleges to assist indigenous peoples to gain access to nursing and teacher preparation programs.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2302 (Assembly Judiciary Committee)

Purpose: To require the courts to provide interpreters in a wide variety of civil cases when a party to the proceeding is limited English proficient unless the party provides his or her own interpreter.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on May 24. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2420 (Ted Lieu, D-El Segundo)

Purpose: To require state agencies, when collecting demographic data, to specifically collect data for Bangladeshi, Fijian, Hmong, Indonesian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, Tongan, other Asians, and other Pacific Islanders, along with any other categories of people.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2508 (Ray Haynes, R-Temecula)

Purpose: To change California law so as to permit the state to combat the entry of undocumented immigrants into the state.

Status: Failed in the Assembly Judiciary Committee. **LLP Position:** Oppose.

AJR 37 (Mark Ridley Thomas, D—Los Angeles)
Purpose: To urge Congress to extend the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and encourage Americans to celebrate the 41st anniversary of the Act.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 43 (Mark Leno, D—San Francisco)
Purpose: To urge Congress to extend the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and encourage Americans to celebrate the 41st anniversary of the Act.
Status: Introduced. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1160 (Gilbert Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)
Purpose: To permit the issuance of limited-use driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants in conformance with federal law.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1267 (Gilbert Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)
Purpose: To establish the Office of Immigrant Affairs to ensure the integration and civic participation of new citizens in the state.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1329 (Elaine Alquist, D—San Jose)
Purpose: To encourage the opening of retail stores that sell healthy food in limited-income neighborhoods.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1405 (Nell Soto, D—Ontario)
Purpose: To establish the Task Force on Reimbursement for Language Services to develop and adopt a mechanism for seeking federal matching funds to pay for language assistance services, including oral interpretation services and translation of written materials, for the population that is limited English proficient and that is enrolled in Medi-Cal or the Healthy Families Program.
Status: In the Senate Health Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1569 (Sheila Kuehl, D—Los Angeles)
Purpose: To extend eligibility for certain state and local benefits, including, but not limited to, refugee cash assistance, Medi-Cal, and employment social services, to qualified noncitizen victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1575 (Joe Dunn, D—Garden Grove)
Purpose: To require schools to teach children about the unconstitutional deportation of US citizens and legal residents of Mexican American heritage during the 1930s.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1615 (Joseph Simitian, D—Palo Alto)
Purpose: To require state agencies that collect

ethnic and racial data using filled-out forms to allow people to check more than one race and more than one ethnicity when completing the forms.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

Women's Issues

AB 525 (Judy Chu, D—Monterey Park)
Purpose: To strengthen laws regarding the reporting of emotional child abuse likely to do serious emotional damage to a child.
Status: In the Senate Public Safety Committee for a vote on June 13. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1796 (Rudy Bermudez, D—Norwalk)
Purpose: To require people seeking a license to practice medicine to disclose any information about any sexual misconduct or harassment in his or her past.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Awaiting assignment to a Senate committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1911 (Bonnie Garcia, R—El Centro)
Purpose: To appropriate \$15 million for the support of Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) teams—coalitions of local law enforcement and other local government agencies that work together to fight sexual assault crimes—and require the Department of Justice to study their effectiveness.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2066 (Sally Lieber, D—San Jose)
Purpose: To require the Department of Corrections to create a Female Reform Master Plan and conduct a research study of victimization of female inmates and report on the study to the legislature.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on May 24. **LLP Position:** Watch.

AB 2084 (Betty Karnette, D—Long Beach)
Purpose: To make improvements in the laws relating to the operation of domestic abuse shelters.
Status: Awaiting a final vote in the Assembly.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2139 (Bonnie Garcia, R—El Centro)
Purpose: To require a police officer responding to a domestic violence complaint to inform the victim that he or she can ask the officer to request an emergency restraining order against the perpetrator.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Awaiting assignment to a Senate committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2141 (Dave Jones, D—Sacramento)
Purpose: To establish a parent-child communication program to help parents communicate with their children about sex so as to reduce the number of teen pregnancies.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2169 (Cindy Montanez, D—Mission Hills)
Purpose: To delete the sunset provision for a program designed to protect domestic violence victims from stalkers by keeping key information about the victims confidential. This protective program would continue indefinitely.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2251 (Noreen Evans, D—Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To prohibit anyone from posting on the Internet any information about the addresses, home phone numbers, or picture of any employee, volunteer (or their family members), or patient of a reproductive health services facility with the intent of causing bodily harm.
Status: Awaiting a final vote in the Assembly.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2317 (Paul Koretz, D—West Hollywood)
Purpose: Would require the State Department of Health Services to conduct the Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD) Awareness Campaign to increase awareness and provide education to pregnant women and new mothers on postpartum mood and anxiety disorders.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2512 (Sharon Runner, R—Lancaster)
Purpose: To require a doctor, except in emergencies, to provide a woman with information and counseling on fetal pain before performing an abortion.
Status: Failed in the Assembly Health Committee.
LLP Position: Oppose.

AB 2555 (Jenny Oropeza, D—Carson)
Purpose: To increase the penalties for employers who pay employees of one sex less than those of the other sex for the same work.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2583 (Joe Nation, D—San Rafael)
Purpose: To require pharmacies to post visible signs in their stores informing women of their rights to prescription drugs and devices that have been legally prescribed.
Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2695 (Jackie Goldberg, D—Los Angeles)
Purpose: To allow an employer to seek a restraining order against a person who committed domestic violence, when that domestic violence occurred in the workplace.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Awaiting assignment to a Senate committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2781 (Mark Leno, D—San Francisco)
Purpose: To regulate the activities of private child support collection agencies in order to protect the adult seeking child support. Would also require the

Continued on page 10

Legislative Update

Continued from page 9

person who owes child support to pay half the cost of the private collection agency's fees.

Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor. **LLP Position:** Support.

ACA 24 (Rebecca Cohn, D-Campbell)

Purpose: To increase the income tax on income above \$100,000 per year and require that the extra taxes taken in this way be used to support domestic violence shelters.

Status: Introduced. **LLP Position:** Support.

ACR 99 (Rebecca Cohn, D-Campbell)

Purpose: To declare the month of October 2006 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Status: In the Assembly inactive file.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1240 (Dennis Hollingsworth, R-Temecula)

Purpose: To appropriate an unspecified amount for the support of Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) teams, which are coalitions of local law enforcement and other local government agencies that work together to fight sexual assault crimes.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1245 (Liz Figueroa, D-Fremont)

Purpose: To require that insurance companies or health care providers pay for the HPV test as part of the annual cervical cancer screening test.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1260 (Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento)

Purpose: To require that a doctor, before harvesting eggs from a woman for research purposes, obtain her written consent and provide her with information on health and consumer issues related to the process.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1402 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: Under current law charges of rape cannot be prosecuted unless they have been reported within one year of the date on which the rape occurred or unless it has been corroborated by independent evidence. This bill would remove these impediments to prosecution of rape charges.

Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1487 (Dennis Hollingsworth, R-Temecula)

Purpose: To prohibit a doctor from performing an abortion unless the patient first signs a form saying she knows she cannot be forced to have an abortion and has not been forced to do so.

Status: Died in the Senate Health Committee.

LLP Position: Oppose.

SB 1491 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To prohibit any agency making grants to domestic abuse service providers from requiring, as a condition of the grant, the disclosure of identifying information about the clients they serve or requiring the use of computer programs or systems that require the disclosure of this information.

Status: Approved by the Senate. Awaiting committee assignment in the Assembly.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1599 (Denise Moreno Ducheny, D-San Diego)

Purpose: To require cities and counties to use certain funds from fees charged for marriage licenses, death certificates, and birth certificates for oversight and coordination of various domestic violence, family violence prevention, and domestic violence intervention and prosecution programs.

Status: Failed in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1743 (Debra Bowen, D-Redondo Beach)

Purpose: Under current law when a person petitions the court for a legal change of name to try to escape notice of an abuser, the petition and the court's order to show cause must be published.

The proposed new name of the petitioner is usually in these documents. This bill would allow the name to remain confidential except that it will be placed on file with the secretary of state.

Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1745 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To declare the intent of the state legislature to develop legislation that would protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in their homes and prohibit discrimination against these victims in housing and employment.

Status: To be voted on in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 22.

LLP Position: Support.

SCR 76 (Elaine Alquist, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To declare October 2006 as Breast Cancer Prevention and Awareness Month.


Status: Approved by the legislature. No action by the governor required. It is now law.

LLP Position: Support.

SJR 19 (Elaine Alquist, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To urge Congress and the president to uphold the Roe v. Wade decision of the US Supreme Court.

Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support. 

Looking Up Bills Online

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Lambda Letters tries to be as useful as possible to the communities we serve. Besides providing our members with sample letters on important legislation for them to sign, we try to offer services that let individuals and community-based organizations help themselves and lobby for civil rights on their own.

The Legislative Update published on our website, as well as in our newsletter, is one such example. This article describes the features of that online list of bills, which might be useful to you as an individual or as the representative of an organization. Read this while sitting at your computer so you can follow the steps as I describe them.

To see the bill list, go to www.lambdaletters.org and click Legislative Update in the "Where to Go..." links at left.

You will see the bill list arranged by the major subject areas we cover. The status of each bill is found to the right of its description. If the bill has a committee vote scheduled, the date, time, and room number in the California State Capitol is listed there. You can find more information about each bill by clicking its bill number and then clicking the various links on the resulting page.

- ♦ To see the actual wording of the bill, click the bill number and then click either HTML or PDF in the Bill Text section. Many bills are amended as they go through the legislative process. The version of the bill at the top of the list is always the most current one.
- ♦ To read an analysis of the bill, and the arguments in support or opposition to it, click HTML in the Analyses section. These analyses also list which groups have submitted letters of support or opposition to the bill. The most recent analysis is at the top of the list.
- ♦ To see how legislators have been voting on a bill, click HTML in the Votes section.

Suppose you want to write to the members of a committee about a bill. To find out who they are, you need to go to the legislature's website. For Senate committees go to www.sen.ca.gov. Then click Committees at the side of the page, followed by Standing.

Continued on page 11

Polls See Increased Backing for Gays

By Joy Fisher, Legislative Analyst

Two polls released on subsequent days show increased backing for gay rights in California and the nation as a whole, with California residents more positively inclined than the rest of the nation.

Field Poll

According to the Sacramento Bee, a Field Poll released on March 21 reported that some 67% of Californians support the rights of gays and lesbians to serve in the military, 64% of registered voters believe homosexual relations among consenting adults should be legal, 59% favor prohibiting employers from discriminating against homosexuals, and 55% say gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to adopt children.

With regard to same-sex marriage, only 43% of residents overall support legalization. This number increased to 44% among registered voters, however. Among residents aged 18–29, suddenly 54% support same-sex marriage and only 42% oppose it.

Unfortunately, while overall support for same-sex marriage fell short of a majority, state residents opposed amending the U.S. Constitution to define marriage as being only between a man and a woman by a margin of 50% to 40%.

These numbers are up sharply since six years ago when 61.4% of California voters backed an anti-gay marriage initiative, Proposition 22, which declared, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

Field Poll Director Mark DiCamillo attributed the growing support for gay rights to the fact that more Californians now say they know or work with someone who is homosexual.

"If a person knows gays and lesbians, they are much more likely to be accepting and tolerant," he said.


The Field Poll was conducted February 12–26 by telephone. One thousand adults, including 680 registered voters, were surveyed.

Looking Up Bills Online

Continued from page 10

Click the committee name to see a list of members. For Assembly committees go to www.assembly.ca.gov. Then click Committee Directory on the side of the page, followed by the name of the committee.

You can write all legislators, in either house of the state legislature, at California State Legislature, Sacramento, CA 95814. You can e-mail each legislator as well. For senators, click their names and then click Feedback. For assemblymembers, click the e-mail address to the right of their names.

We encourage you to be a proactive citizen. Feel free to use these tools to let your legislators know how they should be voting on the important legislation of the day. 


Pew Research Center

Another poll, conducted nationwide by the Pew Research Center and released March 22, showed that same-sex marriage was supported by 39% of the 1,045 adults surveyed March 8–12. According to the San Francisco Chronicle, 51% of those surveyed expressed opposition to same-sex marriage. However, these numbers reflect a 12% drop in opposition to same-sex marriage since February 2004, when 63% of Americans opposed the right of gays and lesbians to marry and only 30% were in favor.

There was also a distinct change in the number of respondents who said they "strongly oppose" same-sex marriage. In February 2004, 42% of respondents said they "strongly opposed" same-sex marriage. That dropped to 28% this year.

February 2004 was the period when same-sex couples were marrying in San Francisco. Gay rights advocates attribute the changes to the opportunity people have had during the past two years to hear the stories of gay couples and families.

However, since 2004, voters in 13 states have passed constitutional bans on same-sex marriage, and at least seven states will vote on similar measures in November.

Support for gays showed improvement in other categories as well. Sixty percent of those polled in the most recent survey supported allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military, while the country was nearly evenly split on allowing gay and lesbian couples to adopt children: 46% in favor, 48% opposed. 

This newsletter printed on recycled paper

Celebrating Juneteenth

By Pat Washington, LLP Chair

Juneteenth is celebrated because it symbolizes the end of African-American enslavement in the United States—a day of jubilee when emancipation meant freedom! Juneteenth is America's second Independence Day. It honors those African-American ancestors who were enslaved for more than 300 years in America and who survived the most inhumane treatment known to man, as well as their demonstrated legacy of resistance and perseverance.

Also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, Juneteenth is celebrated on June 19 in the United States to commemorate the date in 1865 when many slaves in Texas learned they had been freed by the Emancipation Proclamation (January 1, 1863).

Texas was the primary home of Juneteenth celebrations for more than a century but its observance has spread across the nation in recent years. Since 2002 California celebrates the National Juneteenth Freedom Day each year on the third Saturday of June.

Juneteenth is also a day for all Californians to join African-Americans and honor and reflect upon the significant roles they have played throughout our country's history. To find a schedule of celebrations, visit www.juneteenth.com/5california.htm.

If you are interested in ordering a framed copy of the California "State Juneteenth National Freedom Day" poster for your office or home, contact:

Bendera (Bea Jones)
Senoj American African Flags
PO Box 2981
Garden Grove, CA 92842
Phone: 714-636-1828 



WHISLER LAND COMPANY

For All Your Real Estate Needs

Commercial and Residential Sales 916-446-6666

Property Management and Rentals 916-446-6663

**Serving Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Solano,
San Francisco, and Yolo Counties, and Outlying
Areas Since 1975**

**Proud Supporters of Our Community and many of
its Organizations**

www.whisler.com